



Winter Driving Transcript

Before the snow and ice arrive...prepare your car.

For traction, change to snow or all weather tires, or at least make sure you have good tread.

For visibility, check your lights and wiper blades, clean your windows, and adjust your rear-view mirrors.

Then, stock your car with some basics:

- For the snow... a scraper and brush and a shovel.
- For roadside emergencies...a flashlight and warning devices, such as reflective strips or flares.

And for yourself, take along a first aid kit, extra warm clothes, and boots.

Then, when the snow and ice arrive...plan ahead.

- Listen to your radio and TV for weather and travel information.
- Check your information hotline if you have one.
- And then use your personal judgement in getting to work.

Make safe and reasonable choices.

Consider delaying your departure until conditions improve. But, if you feel it's unsafe to drive, you may wish to take vacation time or make specific work arrangements with your supervisor.

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And then, after the snow and ice have arrived — if you do decide to drive — control your car by following these driving tips:

Always allow extra time to get to work and to get home.

Drive slowly.

- Keep a steady, slow speed.
- Allow extra distance between you and the car in front of you — because it takes up to 10X longer to stop on ice.
- Use the highest gear possible to reduce spinning your tires.
- Change speed and direction slowly.

Then, watch out for ice.

- Ice will first form and remain the longest on and under bridges and overpasses, in shady spots, and at intersections.
- Watch out for black ice, especially when there has been a lot of mid-day snow melting. Black ice fools drivers. Its shine tricks them into thinking it's water on the road. But this shiny ice surface is one of the most slippery road conditions.

Brake slowly by planning ahead.

- First, lower the gear to reduce speed.
- Allow your speed to fall.
- Then, break gently.
- If you have anti-locking brakes — apply firm, steady pressure.
- If you don't have anti-locking brakes — gently pump the break to prevent wheel lock-up

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And a special reminder for all those 4-wheel drivers...don't be overconfident. 4-wheel drive helps you go, it never helps you stop.

All of these tips will help you to keep control of your car. But if you do start to skid, here's what you should do.

For rear wheel drive cars and trucks:

- First, take your foot off the accelerator.
- Then, steer the front wheels in the direction of the skid until you regain control.

But if you have front wheel drive:

- Apply some power gently to the accelerator. This will help pull the car straight as you regain control.

So prepare your car, plan ahead, and control your car — and remember, always make your own safe choices.